

## DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Evaluation of scientific activity of academics has been a focus of many studies, however very few of those studies have taken into account artists working at universities. Art schools, together with other scientific institutions, are subjected to periodic evaluations of research activity, and it is plausible to think that in the field of art, like in other academic disciplines, national systems of research funding have a significant influence on the creative activity of academics. However, very little is known about the nature of this influence, and art disciplines remain outside of the mainstream scholarly work on research evaluation.

The inclusion of artists into the system of research funding raises questions about the relationship between the arts and research. Is the creative activity of artists-academics a research activity? How do artists-academics define academic research and how do they view their own practice as research? These questions have been addressed by scholars in other countries, for example in Scandinavia and the Anglo-Saxon world, where the incorporation of art schools into university structures led to the advent of the so-called “artistic research”. According to this approach, artistic practice is a form of academic research that involves knowledge-making. In Poland, this approach is not particularly well known, and the system of research evaluation is based on a strict disjuncture between the arts and science. Artistic activity is evaluated using separate criteria that are based on merely quantitative (e.g. length of a production, size of a performing ensemble) and formal criteria (e.g. leading or supporting role in a movie). We know very little about how this evaluation method corresponds with the idea held by artists-academics about the relationship between artistic practice and academic research.

The aim of this research project is to investigate the effects of the Polish system of research evaluation on the creative arts and to identify research criteria in the artistic disciplines. The former goal will include an analysis of achievements submitted for three consecutive evaluation exercises (2013-2017-2021) by higher art education institutions. Statistical analysis will allow to detect quantitative and qualitative transitions in the creative activity of artists-academics. The results of the analysis will be discussed with academic staff during individual in-depth interviews. The latter aim – identification of research criteria – will be accomplished through interviews with artists-academics conducted using Repertory Grid Technique. This technique is based on structured interviews that allow to elicit personal constructs used by individuals to understand, organize and describe their experience. As a result, research criteria that achieved consensus in different art disciplines will be identified.

The accomplishment of these research tasks will allow to find out how artists-academics understand research, and whether artistic activity within the higher education context can be considered as a form of scientific research. In addition, the project includes a comprehensive overview of different country evaluation models and their analysis in terms of possible applications in the Polish context.